

A

REVIEW

OF THE

Affairs of *FRANCE*:

Purg'd from the Errors and Partiality of *Newſ-Writers*
and *Petty-Statesmen*, of all Sides.

Saturday, July 15. 1704.

I Hope, when the Readers of these Sheets expect me to make good the last Paragraph of the former *Review*, they do not at the same time look for an Indictment against the King of Sweden fill'd with all the long Scroul of Adverbs, that the Lawyers Croud into their Forms of Process, the *Maliciouslys*, *Ambitiouslys*, &c.

Or if they look for ill Language from me on that Head, and think I shall treat the King of Sweden with less respect than becomes me, to a Crown'd Head; such People will be equally mistaken.

I shall never forget when I mention that Prince, that I am speaking of, *Charles* the XIIth. King of Sweden, whose Glorious Ancestors have done such great Things for the Protestant Religion, as all the World cannot Parallel; that his Father was the general Mediator of the Peace of *Risnyck*: That he was the true Preserver of the Glory and Valour of his great Progenitors, that he charg'd at the Head of his Horse-Guards in the Battail of *Bremen*, and fir'd his Pistol in the Face of a *Danish* Colonel, when he was not above 16 Years of Age, and gain'd the Victory by his extraordinary Courage.

I cannot forget that *Carolus Gustavus*

the first King of this immediate Race, over-ran all *Poland*, drove King *Cassimir* quite out of his Kingdom, and being invaded by the *Dane*, in a manner not much unlike the Present King of *Poland's* invading *Livonia*; viz. when the *Swede* was engag'd at a great distance with other *Bæmicks*, he quitted *Poland* after having ravag'd it in a dreadful manner, and in the depth of Winter, with an Army of old Iron-fac'd *Swedes*, as hard as the Ice they March'd on; began such a March as never was attempted in the World before; he March'd from *Cracow* in *Poland*, to *Fredrickſode* in *Holstein*, and was upon the *Dane* before he had time to Examine, whether he flew through the Air, or march'd over Land; his very Approach frighted the *Dane* from the Continent, and presuming the *Swede* could not fly over the Sea, nor swim thro' the Water, he took Sanctuary in the Isles of the *Baltick*, with his whole Army. The *Swede*, whom neither Winter by Land, nor want of Vessels by Sea, were capable of stopping, in the fury of his Undertaking; Assaulted the strong Frontier Town of *Fredrickſode*, carried it Sword in hand, his Dragoons swimming thro' the River, among the flakes of Ice, and put the Garrison to the Sword.

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All the World expected the fury of the Frost, the extremities of the Weather, and the other Circumstances of the coldest Winter those Parts had ever felt, wou'd have check'd the *Swedes*, and they must have waited here till the Season for another Campaign; when the Frost continuing, we find this Terrible Prince, with his whole Army making such an Attempt, as a Man can hardly reflect on, without some Horror at what might have been the Effects of it; he Shifts his whole Army, Artillery, Carriages and Baggage on the Ice; march'd over the Arm of the Sea call'd the *Lesser Belt*, being 12 Miles broad, Landed in *Funen*, took all the *Danish* Army there Prisoners of War, follow'd his Fortunes to a yet more desperate Attempt than that, Passes the *Great Belt* in the same manner, 16 Miles broad, Enters the Isle of *Zealand*, and sits down under the Walls of *Copenhagen*.

It is with great difficulty, that I prevail with my self not to relate the particulars of this Prodigious Action, how the great Generals oppos'd the King's Design; the Noble Speech of old *Wrangel*—his General of Horse; the King's Answer; the Essay the King made of the Strength of the Ice, and causing himself to be drawn about upon it, and after that a Piece of Cannon, before he would let his Men venture, and a great variety of particulars which I have by me in Manuscript, and were given me by an *English* Gentleman that was in the Action, and is still living.

But I have been often reprov'd for Digressions, thus far I think was necessary, because of the Similitude there was between the Provocation given that Prince by the *Dane*, and the Provocation given this Prince by the *Pole*; and for the sake of some other Parallels which I shall have occasion to bring from the Success of this Prince in his War, and the Concern the *English* and *Dutch* had in the Event; and as the next Paper I presume will justify this Article, so, the Parallel will be so just and full of so many and diverting Varieties, which will come in our way, that it could not be omitted.

These were some of the Ancestors of the present King of *Sweden*; to mention the

Great *Gustavus Adolphus*, who fought for, and settled at the price of his Blood, the Liberty and Religion of *Germany*, would be to run into another Labyrinth; from whence I should never get back, till the Reader, and perhaps the Author, would forget the Story we are upon, since that Prince ought not to be nam'd, without just Remarks on such a Series of Conquest, such Battails, such Victories as neither *Alexander*, *Cæsar*, or *Lewis* the XIVth. can pretend to.

These are the Ancestors of this Young, and already Glorious Prince, the King of *Sweden*; and that he is not at all Degenerated from the Blood of his Family; that the Personal Courage and forwardness for the Field has not forsaken the Stock, nor early Victory the Attempts of this Race of Heroes, the Battails of *Narva*, *Riga*, and *Cracow* have already testify'd.

If then we come to Reflect on things, and to Animadvert upon the Actions of this Prince; it must be with due Caution of necessary Truth; due Regard to his Personal Merit, and a very great Veneration to the Memory and Glory of his Ancestors. And they who expect Rudeness from the Author of this Paper, in a Case of this Quality, 'tis presum'd will have time to be ashamed of it.

'Tis the unhappy juncture of Affairs, now depending, makes the present Proceeding of the King of *Sweden* subject to just Reflection; had all the rest of *Europe* been at Peace, or had they not been engag'd in such a War; the Progress of which has brought the Fate of Empires, Kingdoms, and indeed of all *Europe*, to a General Crisis: Were one, two, or three of the King of *Sweden*'s Allies only in Danger from the Power of *France*, his *Swedish* Majesty might say, *Let them fall, I must mind my own Business*; or, *Let them wait, I may help 'em after I have pursued and settled the Conquest of Poland*.

But while the Fate of all *Europe*, the Subjection of the *German* Liberty, and the Empire, of which he is a Member, while the Subversion of the Protestant Religion, of which his Ancestors were the Glorious Protectors, while the Sovereignty of French Power over all the Kingdoms of *Europe*,

is in the Scale against his single Glory, against his Personal Pique at the *Poles*; what shall we say to the Matter? who can Defend it, or answer for the Prudence of it?

For what is it, say we, that the *Swede* pursues the King of *Poland*?—Not for Conquest, for he does not pretend to be King himself—tho' I will not Answer for that, nor can I tell why he does not pretend to it, for Kings seldom pull one another down, but 'tis to set themselves up; but I refer my Conjectures of that, to the Event of which we see his *Prussian* Majesty beginning to be Jealous; and I cannot think 'tis without Cause.

Is it Personal Revenge then, for the Affront of Invading *Livonia*? Must the King of *Poland* be depos'd; because he affronted the King of *Sweden*? The Punishment is not adequate to the Crime, for the Offence is not against the *Poles*, but against the *Swedes*; and they that are concern'd in the World, for and talk so much of the Bal-

lance of Power, and the necessity of maintaining it, would do well to consider, Whether 'tis safe for that part of *Europe*, to let the *Swede* Annex *Poland* to his own Dominion.

In the consideration of this Article, we must return to the Case of *Carolus Gustavus*, mentioned before.

The Affront he receiv'd from the *Dane*, was exactly the same with this in *Livonia*, the other States of *Europe*, exclaim'd against it; all People said the *Dane* deserv'd to be Punish'd; and to be very ill Treated.

But when the King lay at the Siege of *Copenhagen* and *Europe*, began to see if he carried it much farther, he would dissolve the Kingdom of *Denmark*, make it a Province of *Sweden*, and so destroy the Balance of the North; the Princes of *Europe* began to concern themselves in the Quarrel; and in what manner shall be our next Enquiry.

ADVICE from the Scandalous CLUB.

THE Society having receiv'd a Summons to answer the Author of the *Courant* a Question, makes this Reply to him.

As to the Letters sent relating to the Corrections of his Paper, 'tis own'd these are publish'd on the Reputation of the Persons sending them; ——— and to that Head this Answer is given.

The Persons who handed them to the Press, are known, and to be found; and the Author of the Paper refers the Gentleman to the Publishers of this, to defend that Part for him: If the Observations are impos'd, and unjust, he is content the Blame should lie where 'tis due.

As to his material Question, tho' the Case differs; if the Gentleman who the Author thinks he has never treated but with Respect, imagines descending to Personal Scandal, a good Way to vindicate the trifling Mistakes of his News-paper; the Author of the Review, lets him know he shall, be perfectly unconcern'd in such a Case; and gives him his Words, he shall have neither say, Reply to it, nor any such soul Usage

on his Side. He believes himself guilty of as few Things that merit Reproach, as any of his Fellows; and if the Faults he has, for he never pretended to be misinformed, must be Printed for Want of a Mail from *Holland*, the *Courant* is at Liberty and must do as he thinks fit.

In the mean time, the Gentlemen who sent such Letters, no Question will think themselves concern'd to make out their Observations to be just, and if not, the Author of the *Courant* shall see we will treat him like a Gentleman, and make him *L'Amende Honorable*, as publick as he can desire: And this the Author of the Review thinks is the fairest Method of Redress.

This Gentleman also, may see that the Author makes a plain distinction between Observations of his own, and such as are Receiv'd by Letters; signifying what he is sure of, and what from other Authorities; and is ready to produce the Authority; if the Gentleman has any thing Scandalous to say of the Author, and will produce his Authority and prove the Fact, this not only avails to its being as Publick as the *Press* can

We have been so often upon the Defence of Our Title, that the World begins to think Our Society wants Employment; when in Truth they are wonderful full of Business; but the Case of Our Title we judge very necessary to Defend.

The last push made is at Our Precedents, of which a Gentleman told us this Week they were Mean, and not of Authority sufficient to justify our altering the signification of a Word.

Upon this the Society began to consider of more Examples of like kind, and since *Milton* and *Dryden* were too mean, We thought 'twould be to no purpose to look farther back; and therefore begun to Examine, why the more Modern, as well as more considerable Authors of the *Post-Man*, *Post-Boy*, *London-Post*, *Monthly-Mercury*, &c. should not be concern'd to justify Our Title?

It Scandalous must signify nothing but Personal Scandal, respecting the Subject of which it is predicated; we desire those Gentlemen to Answer for us, how *Post-Man* or *Post-Boy* can signify a News-Paper; the *Post Man* or *Post Boy*, being in all my reading properly and strictly applicable, not to the Paper, but to the Person Bringing or Carrying the News? *Mercury* also is, if I understand it, by a Transmutation of Meaning, from a God turn'd into a Book — From hence our Club thinks they have not fair Play, in being deny'd the Privilege of making an Allegory as well as other People.

Thus it appears, I think, fully, ours is not a boldness without Example, and if all these Examples will not justify us, then Custom must no more pass for an Authority in Speech, which I think it must, and ought to do, especially in our Language, which has no *Syntax*; and which owes all its Beauties and Cadence, to the Improvements and Amendments of Modern Pens, to whom we are beholden for making the *English* Tongue deserve the following Encomium given it by the Earl of *Roscommon*, who was a great Judge of it, and had a share in the Embellishments we speak of.

But who did ever in *French* Authors see,
The Comprehensive *English* Energy;
The weighty Bullion of our Sterling Line,
(Pages shine.
Drawn to *French* Wire would thro' whole

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